

Petersen, Chris

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**From:** Petersen, Chris  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:55 PM  
**To:** Eoc, Epahq  
**Subject:** RE: Hood Mercury Spill in Odessa, TX

Busy night huh Peter!

J. Chris Petersen  
Deputy Associate Director  
Response and Prevention Branch  
US EPA Region 6  
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**From:** Eoc, Epahq  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:10 PM  
**To:** Petersen, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: Hood Mercury Spill in Odessa, TX

Thanks for the notification, Chris. Have a good evening.

Pete Oh , Watch Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center  
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<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>

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**From:** Petersen, Chris  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:06 PM  
**To:** R6 Response Notify  
**Subject:** Hood Mercury Spill in Odessa, TX

On Tuesday March 18, the Odessa Fire and Rescue Haz-Mat team responded to Hood Jr. High for a mercury release. Some children reportedly took about an ounce of mercury in a water bottle to school that morning. The bottle was carried into the cafeteria, several classrooms and the principal's office. Numerous children were potentially exposed to the mercury. About 60 children were decontaminated at the school and then transported to the two hospitals in Odessa. Approximately half of the children were seen by Medical Center hospital and the other half were taken to Odessa Regional Medical Center. All patients were asymptomatic and were discharged from the hospitals the same day.

The Odessa School District hired a haz-mat company from Midland, Allied International, which arrived on-scene Tuesday and began assessment and cleanup efforts on the school. The school

will remain closed until at least Monday while these efforts continue. Late Wednesday the Odessa School District officials requested assistance from EPA Region 6 with air monitoring activities related to mercury vapor analysis. OSC Mike McAteer will arrive on-scene tomorrow morning along with START contractors and air monitoring instruments.

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